

ENTOMOLOGICAL NEWS

VOL. LXXVI

APRIL, 1965

No. 4

Larinocerus balius, a New Genus and New Species of Plant Bug from the United States (Hemip- tera: Miridae)

RICHARD C. FROESCHNER *

Among the unidentified Miridae in the Smithsonian Institution were two series of a strongly marked and, surprisingly, apparently undescribed Californian mirid. Following Carvalho's (1955) keys, the lack of arolia, absence of a pronotal collar, and structure of the male external genitalia place it in the tribe Phylini; within the tribe the pale color of body and coria coupled with the modification of the third antennal segment (swollen and with large flattened hairs) run it to *Hambletoniola* Carvalho (1954) from Mexico.

The relationship between *Hambletoniola* and the present new genus is quite close, as shown by the following enumeration of characters shared by both: antennal segments II and III with large flattened hairs; vestiture of head and pronotum of long, pale, suberect hairs intermixed with recumbent, golden, scalelike hairs; femora and tibiae dull white with fuscous spots; and pseudarolia reaching well beyond midlength of tarsal claws.

For a time I considered the new species as a member of *Hambletoniola*, but on closer examination I found the following important differences which, in the tribe Phylini, clearly demark this as a distinct genus. *Hambletoniola* has 1) diameter of antennal segment II subequal to or less than diameter of segment III; 2) vertex twice as wide as one eye; 3) costal margin convex from base to midpoint, thence straight. In contrast, this

* Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.

new genus has 1) diameter of antennal segment II distinctly greater than that of segment III; 2) vertex wider, its width about three and a half times that of an eye; and 3) costal margin convex from base to apex.

LARINOCERUS, new genus

DIAGNOSIS: The greatly inflated and polished black second and third antennal segments with their broad, flat, scalelike pubescence separate this genus from all others in the subfamily Phylinae; and from all other genera of the family in North America (Fig. 1).

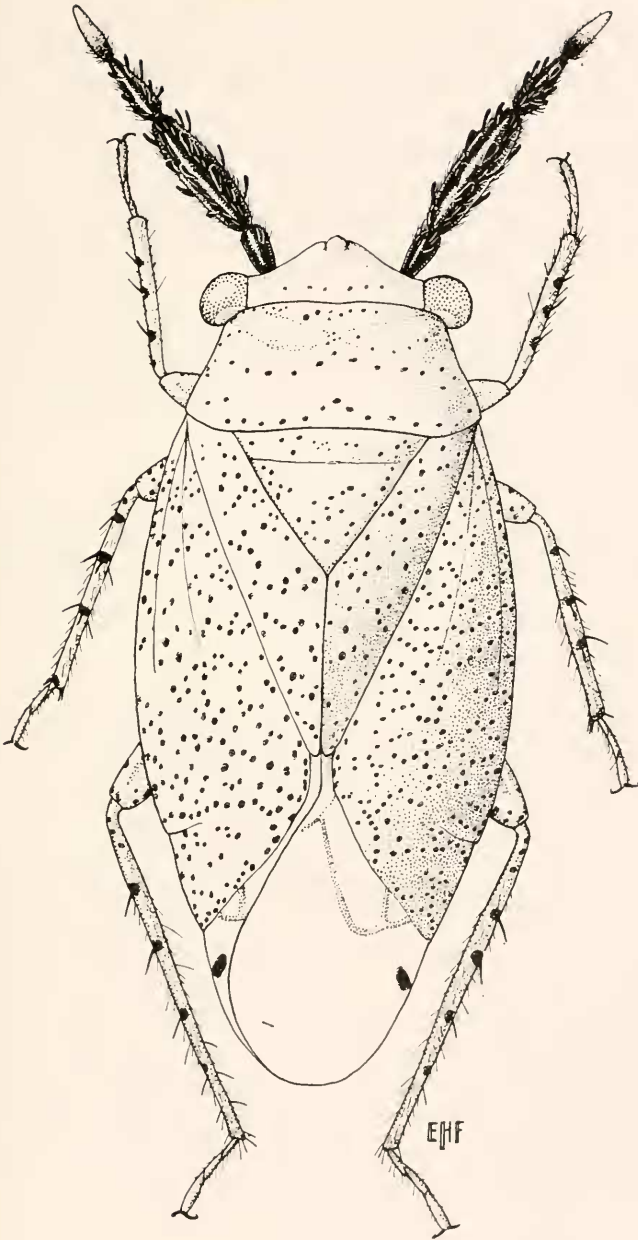
DESCRIPTION: Male. Overall length, 3.0–3.2 mm; ovoid; head, pronotum, and to a lesser extent the coria, with numerous easily abraded, suberect pubescence intermixed with golden, flattened, recumbent hairs. Head transverse, moderately inclined, clypeus distinctly surpassing juga; eyes moderately large, transverse diameter of one of them less than one-third of interocular width of vertex. Antennal fossa distinctly separated from eye. All antennal segments inflated and, except fourth, polished fuscous to black; all segments with numerous decurved dark hairs and segments II and III with numerous long, flattened, scalelike hairs; segment II thickest. Labium reaching between or only slightly surpassing middle coxae.

Pronotum transverse, about twice as wide as long, impunctate; angles rounded; calli obsolete; lateral margins blunt, not carinate; mesonotum broadly exposed.

Hemelytra opaque; costa convexly curved for full length, distinctly emarginate at cuneal fracture; clavus widening posteriorly; embolium set off by a groove only on basal half; prosternal margin straight; membrane with two areoles.

Legs relatively short, hind femora reaching about three-fourths of abdominal length; all femora compressed, posterior pair much taller than others; all femora with numerous, close-set fuscous spots of various sizes, hind femur also with a larger subapical pair (sometimes fused) dorsally and three very large

FIG. 1. *Larinocerus balius* new genus and new species.



ones on ventral surface; tibiae pale, with numerous prominent fuscous spots on dorsal surface, these encircling insertions of the dark tibial spines; tibial spines dark, their length greater than tibial diameter; tarsi long, more or less cylindrical; pseudarolia large, reaching well beyond middle of claws.

Type of genus: *Larinocerus balius*, new species.

The generic name is derived from Greek: *Larinos*, meaning fat; and the masculine *keros*, meaning horn.

Larinocerus balius, new species (Fig. 1)

As the only member of the genus, this species is easily recognized by the strongly modified second antennal segment which delimits the genus within the subfamily. (All measurements in following description given in millimeters.)

HOLOTYPE: Male. Length to tip of membrane 3.04; width across humeri, 1.12. Head: length, 0.30, width, 1.00, interocular width, 0.66. Antennal segments, I, length 0.20, diameter, 0.11; II, length, 0.60, diameter, 0.16; III, ovoid, length 0.26, diameter, 0.10; IV, length 0.26, diameter, 0.06. Pronotum: length, 0.53, width, 1.10.

Color: dull grayish white with numerous rounded brown to fuscous spots scattered over base of head, pronotum, mesoscutum, scutellum, corium (except basal angles), pleura and venter of abdomen (except broad median strip); membrane chalky white with a prominent, oblique, blackish spot just posterior to apex of cuneus, veins slightly yellowed; antennal segments I, II and III polished brownish black, IV reddish brown on basal two-fifths and pale yellow apically.

Female: very similar to male in form, color and measurements.

Holotype male and allotype female: south of Palmdale, CALIFORNIA, June 8, 1935, P. Oman (U.S.N.M. type No. 67449). *Paratypes:* five males and ten females with same data as holotype; two males and two females, Los Angeles County, California, Coquillett collector. The species name is from the Greek *balius*, meaning spotted.

All specimens have most of the vestiture rubbed off, but enough patches remain on different places on several individuals to allow confident placement of this genus among those with the mixture of two types.

In comparing *L. balius* with the original description and type of *Hambletoniola antennata* Carvalho (1954) an error in the description of the latter was noted. The colors credited (p. 126) to antennal segments II and III actually refer to segments III and IV.

Unfortunately, no host information was available but the dull white color suggests that this insect frequents plants with pruinose white leaves, such as are found on many species of *Artemesia*.

REFERENCES

- CARVALHO, J. C. M. 1954. Neotropical Miridae, LXIX: A remarkable new genus of Phylini (Hemiptera). Ent. News 65: 123-126.
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A Second Specimen of *Neochrysops globosus* Walton. (Diptera, Tabanidae)

L. L. PECHUMAN, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

A miscellaneous lot of undetermined Tabanidae recently received from the Illinois Natural History Survey through the kindness of Dr. H. H. Ross and Mrs. Leonora K. Gloyd included a single specimen of *Neochrysops globosus* Walton. Both genus and species are based on a single specimen collected by Robert Fouts at Cabin John Bridge, Maryland, 20 July 1916 and described by Walton in 1918.

In 1947, Walton pointed out that after 28 years the specimen he described remained unique although competent collectors had attempted to secure more specimens at the type locality.